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Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

General and complete disarmament

Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.39

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/10) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.39 on an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms. The statement is submitted in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. During its consideration of the statement, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications.

2. Operative paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the draft resolution provide, inter alia, for the establishment of and assistance to an open-ended working group which has the task of facilitating further consideration of the implementation of the recommendation contained in paragraph 27 of the report of the Group of Governmental Experts (see A/63/334) on a step-by-step basis among all States Members of the United Nations, in an open and transparent manner.

3. The activities related to the implementation of the draft resolution are described in paragraphs 4 to 7 of the statement. The Committee notes that the Office for Disarmament Affairs would provide the necessary substantive services to the open-ended group, which would hold three sessions in 2009 in New York and four sessions in 2010-2011 at venues to be determined at the organizational session to be held before 27 February 2009. The Secretary-General indicates in paragraph 6 of his statement that, should the venues of the four sessions in 2010-2011 be other than

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New York, this would constitute an exception to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 40/243, by which the general principle is reaffirmed that, in drawing up the schedule of conferences and meetings, United Nations bodies shall plan to meet at their respective headquarters. Upon enquiry, the Committee was informed that, after consultations, it was understood that there was an informal agreement to hold the 2010-2011 substantive sessions in New York.

4. In paragraph 8 of the statement, the Secretary-General outlines the modifications required in respect of the narrative of section 4, Disarmament, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. The relevant outputs pertaining to the third to sixth sessions of the open-ended working group would be reflected in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 (para. 9).

5. Paragraphs 10 to 13 contain information on the estimated resource requirements. The total additional requirements for the implementation of the programme of work during the biennium 2008-2009 amount to $1,225,000, including $1,181,000 under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and $44,000 for related common support services requirements under section 28D, Office of Central Support Services. Upon enquiry, the Committee was provided with a breakdown of the total requirements by budget section and sessions of the open-ended working group, as follows:

(United States dollars)

Budget section	*Organizational session*	*First session*	*Second session*	*Total*
Section 2: General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management				
1. Meetings service	23 700	121 100	121 100	265 900
2. Documentation	19 000	513 000	383 100	915 100
Subtotal	**42 700**	**634 100**	**504 200**	**1 181 000**
Section 28D: Office of Central Support Services				
Technical and other support services	4 000	20 000	20 000	44 000
Total	**46 700**	**654 100**	**524 200**	**1 225 000**

6. The Secretary-General indicates that while every effort will be made to accommodate the requirements for conference-servicing and support services related to the biennium 2008-2009 from within the existing capacity under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, the extent of that accommodation can be determined only in the light of a consolidated statement on the contingency fund reflecting the demand for additional services stemming from all statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates for the biennium 2008-2009.

7. The Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.39, additional requirements of up to $1,225,000 would arise under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 as follows: section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($1,181,000), and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services ($44,000). Any additional appropriations for the biennium 2008-2009 would be considered by the Assembly in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.